

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease in a patient comprising subjecting said patient to a therapeutically effective amount of ~~an~~ a zinc-binding agent which is capable of crossing the blood brain barrier, wherein said agent modulates the interaction within the central nervous system between a divalent or trivalent cation and/or heparin with amyloid precursor protein (APP) of said patient.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the cation is a divalent cation.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said divalent cation is zinc.

28-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) A method of reducing ~~incorrect~~ abnormal protease-mediated processing of amyloid precursor protein (APP) in a patient with Alzheimer's disease comprising the step of administering to said patient ~~to an~~ effective amount of ~~an~~ a zinc-binding agent which is capable of crossing the blood brain barrier, wherein said agent modulates the interaction within the central nervous system between a divalent or trivalent cation and/or heparin with amyloid precursor protein (APP) of said patient.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said cation is a divalent cation.

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said divalent cation is zinc.

40-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) The method according to any one of claims 25-27 or 37-39, wherein said zinc-binding agent is selected from 1,2-diethyl-3-hydroxypyridin-4-one, or 1-hydroxyethyl-3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridin-4-one.

44. (New) The method according to any one of claims 25-27 or 37-39, wherein said zinc-binding agent is orally administered to said patient.